BOMBAY COURIER EXTRAORDINARY.

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 1839.

COURIER OFFICE 5th Dec. 1839.

We have the greatest pleasure in laying before our Readers the following official account of the Capture of Kelat. Genl Willshire's little Force appears to have done its work in admirable style. It has amply avenged the sufferings inflicted on the Army, while on the advance, at the instigation of the Khan of this Place, who is among the slain. The Capture of Kelat, under the circumstances, is a most important event, little if at all inferior to Ghusne, as it lays the whole of Beeloochistan at our Feet, clearing the high roads into Affghanistan from the south, of every obstruction from the People, and offering an example of severity to the Ameers of Scinde, so very near their own door, and upon one so closely connected with them as there is reason to suppose the Khan was, that cannot fail to have a very strong and very salutary effect upon their minds. Kelat, it is to be presumed, will be added to the Dooranee Empire, and placed under the government of Shah Soojah, the English, so far as we can see, entertaining no views of conquest or acquisition of territory beyond the Indus. Captain Outram was the Bearer of the Despatch and came by way of Somneanee, accomplishing the distance between that place and Kelat, 350 miles, in 7½ days.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE—EXTRAORDINARY
DECEMBER 4.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 4th December 1839.

The Hon'ble the Governor in Council has the highest gratification in publishing for general information copy of a Letter from Major Genaral Willshire, C. B. Commanding the Bombay Column of the Army of the Indus, together with Extracts from that Officer's Dispatch to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India, announcing the Capture by Storm on the 13th ultimo of the important Fortress of Kelat by the Troops under his Command.

By order of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council.

L. R. REID,—*Acting Chief Secy. to Govt.*

To,
THE HON'BLE THE GOVR. IN COUN., BOMBAY.

HONORABLE SIR,

With much satisfaction I have the honor to forward the accompanying copy of a Despatch to the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, announcing the Capture, yesterday, by Storm, of the importan Fortress of Kelat, by the Troops under my Command.

I have the honor to be, &c.
(Signed) T. WILLSHIRE.
Major Genl. Comg. Bombay Column,
Army of the Indus.

Head Quarters Camp near Kelat, 14th Nov, 1839.

To THE RIGHT HON'BLE LORD AUCKLAND G. C. B.
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA. &c.

MY LORD,

1. In obedience to the joint instructions furnished me by His Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Army of the Indus, and Envoy and Minister to His Majesty Shah Soojah, under date Cabool the 17th Sept. 1839, deputing to me the duty of deposing Muerab Khan of Kelat, in consequence of the avowed Hostility of that Chief to the British Nation during the present Campaign, I have the honor to report, that on my arrival at Quetta on the 31st ultimo, I communicated with Captain Bean, the Political Agent in Shawl, and arranged with him the best means of giving effect to the orders I had received.

2 Guns Bombay Horse Artillery.
4 Do. Shah's do
2 Russalas Local Horse.
Queen's Royal.
H. M. 17th Regiment.
31st Bengal N. I.
Bombay Engineers.

2. In consequence of the want of Public Carriage, and the limited quantity of Commissariat supplies at Quetta, as well as the reported want of forage on the route to Kelat, I was obliged to dispatch to Cutch Gandava, the whole of the Cavalry and the greater portion of Artillery, taking with me only the Troops noted in the margin, leaving Quetta on the 3d instant.

3. During the march the communications received from Muerab Khan were so far from acceding to the terms offered, that he threatened resistance if the Troops approached his Capital, I therefore proceeded and arrived at the village of Giranee within 8 miles of Kelat on the 12th Instant.

4. Marching from thence the following morning, a body of Horse were perceived on the right of the road, which commenced firing on the advanced Guard commanded by Major Pennycuick, Her Majesty's 17th Regiment, as the Column advanced and skirmishing between them continued until we came in sight of Kelat, rather less than a mile distant.

5. I now discovered that three heights on the North West face of the Fort, and parallel to the North were covered with Infantry with five Guns in position, protected by small Parapet Walls.

6. Captain Peat, Chief Engineer, immediately reconnoitered and having reported that nothing could be done until these heights were in our possession, I decided upon at once storming them simultaneously, and if practicable entering the Fort with the Fugitives, as the Gate in the Northern Face was occasionally opened to keep up the communication between the Fort and the heights.

7. To effect this object I detached a Company from each of the European Regiments from the advanced Guard with Major Pennycuick, H. M. 17th Regiment, for the purpose of occupying the Gardens and Enclosures to the North East of the Town, and two more Companies in the plain, midway between them and the Column, at the same time I ordered three Columns of Attack to be formed, composed of Four Companies from each Corps under their respective Commanding Officers, Major Carruthers of the Queen's, Lieutenant Colonel Croker, H. M. 17th Regiment, and Major Western, 31st Bengal Native Infantry, the whole under the Command of Brigadier Baumgardt, the remainder of the Regiments forming three Columns of Reserve under my own direction to move in support.

8. A Hill being allotted to each Column, Brigadier Stevenson, Commanding the Artillery, moved quickly forward in front towards the base of the heights, and when within the required range, opened fire upon the Infantry and Guns, under cover of which the Columns moved steadily on, and commenced the ascent for the purpose of carrying the heights exposed to the fire of the Enemy's Guns, which had commenced while the Columns of Attack were forming.

9. Before the Columns reached their respective Summits of the Hills, the Enemy overpowered by the superior and well directed fire of our Artillery, had abandoned, them attempting to carry off their Guns, but which they were unable to do; at this moment it appearing to me the opportunity offered for the Troops to get in with the Fugitives, and if possible, gain possession of the Gate of the Fortress, I despatched orders to the Queen's Royal and 17th Regiment to make a rush from the heights for that purpose, following myself to the Summit of the nearest to observe the result; at this moment the four Companies on my left which had been detached to the Gardens and Plain, seeing the chance that offered of entering the Fort, moved rapidly forward from their respective points towards the Gateway, under a heavy and well directed fire from the Walls of the Fort and Citadel, which were thronged by the Enemy.

10. The Gate having been closed before the Troops moving towards it, could effect the desired object, and the Garrison strengthened by the Enemy driven from the heights, they were compelled to cover themselves as far as practicable behind some Walls and ruined Buildings to the right and left of it, while Brigadier Stevenson having ascended the heights with the Artillery, opened two Guns under the command of Lieutenant Forster, Bombay Horse Artillery, upon the defences above the Gate and it's vicinity, while the fire of two others, commanded by Lieutenant Cooper, Shah's Artillery, was directed against the Gate itself, the remaining two with Lieutenant Creed being sent round to the road on the left leading direct up to the Gate, and when within 200 yards commenced fire for the purpose of completing in blowing it open, and after a few rounds they succeded in knocking in one half of it; on observing this I rode down the Hill towards the Gate pointing to it, thereby announcing to the Troops it was open, they instantly rose from their cover and rushed in, those under the command of Major Penycuick being the nearest were the first to gain the Gate headed by that Officer, the whole of the Storming Columns from the three Regiments rapidly following and gaining an entrance as quickly as it was possible to do so, under a heavy fire from the works and from the interior, the Enemy making a most gallant and determined resistance, disputing every inch of ground up to the Walls of the inner Citadel.

11. At this time I directed the Reserve Columns to be brought near the Gate, and detached one Company of the 17th Regiment under Captain Darley to the Western side of the Fort, followed by a portion of the 31st Bengal N. I. commanded by Major Western, conducted by Captain Outram, Acting as my Extra Aid-de-Camp, for the purpose of securing the heights under which the Southern Angle is situated, and intercept any of the Garrison escaping from that side; having driven off the Enemy from the heights above, the united Detachments then descended to the Gate of the Fort below and forced it open before the Garrison (who closed it as they saw the Troops approach) had time to secure it.

12. When the party was detached by the Western face, I also sent two Companies from the Reserve of the 17th under Major Deshon and two Guns of the Shah's Artillery under the Command of Lieutenant Creed Bombay Artillery, by the Eastern to the Southern face, for the purpose of blowing open the Gate above alluded to had it been necessary, as well as the Gate of the inner Citadel; the Infantry joining the other Detachments, making their way through the town in the direction of the Citadel.

13. After some delay the Troops that held possession of the Town at length succeeded in forcing an entrance into the Citadel where a desperate resistance was made by Merab Khan at the head of his people, he himself with many of his principal Chiefs being killed sword in hand, several others however kept up a fire upon our Troops from detatched buildings difficult of access, and it was not until late in the afternoon, those that survived were induced to give themselves up, on a promise of their lives being spared.

14. From every account I have reason to believe the Garrison consisted of upwards of Two Thousand fighting Men, and that the Son of Muerab Khan had been expected to join him from Norosky, with a further re-inforcement; the enclosed Return will shew the Strength of the Force under my Command present at the Capture.

15. The Defences of the Fort, as in the case of Ghuznee, far exceeded in Strength what I had been led to suppose from previous report, and the towering height of the inner Citadel, was most formidable both in appearance and reality.

16. I lament to say that the loss of Killed and Wounded on our side has been severe, as will be seen by the accompanying Return, that on the part of the Enemy must have been great, but the exact number I have not been able to ascertain; several hundred of Prisoners were taken, from whom the Political Agent has selected those he considers it necessary for the present to retain in confinement, the remainder have been liberated.

17. It is quite impossible for me sufficiently to express my admiration of the gallant and steady conduct of the Officers and Men upon this occasion, but the fact, of less than an hour having elapsed from the formation of the Columns for the Attack to the period of the Troops being within the Fort, and this performed in the open day, and and in the face of an Enemy so very superior in numbers, and so perfectly prepared for resistance, will I trust convince your Lordship how deserving both Officers and Troops are of my warmest thanks, and of the highest praise that can be bestowed.

18. To Brigadier Bumgardt, Commanding the Storming Columns, my best thanks are due, and he reports that Captain Wyllie, Acting Assistant Adjutant General, and Captain Gilland his Aide-de-Camp ably aasisted him and zealously performed their duties; also to Brigadier Stevenson, Commanding the Artillery, and Lieutenants Forster and Cooper respectively in charge of the Bombay and Shah's Artillery. I feel greatly indebted for the steady and scientific manner in which the Service of dislodging the Enemy from the heights, and afterwards effecting an entrance into the Fort, was performed; the Brigadier has brought to my notice the Assistance he received from Captain Coghlan his Brigade Major, Lieutenant Woosnam his Aid-de-Camp and Lieutenant Creed when in Battery yesterday.

19. To Lieutenant Colonel Croker, Commanding Her Majesty's 17th Regiment, Major Carruthers Commanding the Queen's Royal's Major Western, Commanding the Bengal 31st N. I, I feel highly indebted for the manner in which they conducted their respective Columns to the attack of the heights, and afterwards to the assault of the Town, as well as to Major Pennycuick of the 17th who led the advanced Guard Companies to the same point.

20. To Captain Peat, Chief Engineer, and to the Officers and Men of the Engineer Corps, my acknowledgments are due.

21. To Major Neil Campbell, Acting Quarter Master General of the Bombay Army, to Captain Hagart, Acting Deputy Adjutant General, and to Lieutenant Ramsay, Acting Assistant Quarter Master General, my best thanks are due for the able assistance afforded me by their services.

22. To my Aides-de-Camp, Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Halkett, as well as to Captain Outram who volunteered his services on my personal Staff, I received the utmost assistance, and to the latter Officer, I feel greatly indebted for the zeal and ability with which he has performed various duties that I have required of him, upon other occasions as well as the present.

23. It is with much pleasure I state the great assistance I have derived from Captain Bean, in obtaining supplies.

(Signed) T. WILLSHIRE, Major General,
Commanding Bombay Column, Army of the Indus.
True Extract. L. R. REID, Acting Chief Secy.

Names of Officers Killed and Wounded.

Corps.	Killed—Rank and Names.	Corps.	Wounded—Rank and Names.	Remarks.
Her M's 2d or Queen's Royal Regiment.	Lieut. T. Gravatt.	Her M's 2d or Queen's Royal Regt..	Captain W. M. Lyster.....	Severely.
		....Do.....	....T. Sealy....	do.
		....Do.....	Lieut. T. W. E. Holdsworth....	do.
		....Do.....	.. D. J. Dickenson.... ..	Slightly.
		....Do.....	Adjutant J. E. Simmons.....	Severely.
		H. M's 17th Regiment...	Captain L. C. Bourchier.. ..	do.
		31st Regiment Bengal N. I.	....Sawrin.	Slightly.
		....Do.....	Ensign..Hopper.	Severely.

(Signed) C. HAGART, *Captain.*
Acting Depy. Adjt. Gen.
Bombay Column, Army of the Indus.

Return of Casualties in the Army under the Command of Major General Willshire, C. B. employed at the Storming of Kelat on the 13th November 1839.

Corps.	Killed: Lieutenant	Killed: Rank and File	Killed: Subedars	Killed: Total	Wounded: Captains	Wounded: Lieutenants	Wounded: Ensigns	Wounded: Adjutants	Wounded: Jumadars	Wounded: Sergeants	Wounded: Drummers	Wounded: Rank and File	Wounded: Regimental Bheesties	Wounded: Total	Horses: Killed & Wounded	Horses: Total	Horses: Killed	Horses: Wounded
Detachment 3rd Troop Horse Artillery												2		2	2	2		6
1st Troop of Cabool Artillery												2	1	3		1		1
Gun Lascars attached to ditto		1		1								40	6	47	69	69		
Her M's. 2nd or Queen's Royal Regiment		21	2	23		2		1	2	3		29	3	38	39	39		
Hr. Ms. 17th Regiment		6	1	7		2			2	1		14		19	22	22		
31st Regt. Bengal Native Infantry		3		3		1			1			1		2	1	1		
Sappers and Miners and Pioneers		1		1														
Two Russallas of the 4th Bengal Local Horse		1		1														
Total	1	33	3	37	1	5	1	1	5	4	1	87	10	107	138	138		7

Missing None.

State of the Corps engaged at the Storming of Kelat on the 13th November 1839, *under the Command of Major General Willshire, C. B.*

Camp at Kelat, 14th November 1839.

Corps	Major Generals.	Brigadiers.	Aides-de-Camp.	Actg. Deputy Adjt. General.	Actg. Qr. Mr. Genl.	Depy. Ast. Qr. Mr. General.	Brigade Majors.	Sub Ast. Comy Gl.	Lieutenant Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns	Adjutants	Quarter Masters.	Surgeons.	Ast. Surgeons.	Native Officers	Sub Conductors.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Farriers.	Rank and File.
Staff	1		2	1	1		1	1														36
Detachment 3rd Troop Horse Artillery											1									2		53
1st Troop of Cabool Artillery																				8	1	200
Hr. Ms 2d or Queen's Royal Regiment										1	3	7	1	1						21	1	336
Hr. Ms. 17th Regiment										1	2	4	1	2		1				2	1	329
31st Regt. Bengal Native Infantry										1	2	3	2	1		1		1		3		117
Sappers and Miners and Pioneers											1	1								7	3	
Two Russallas of the 4th Bengal Local Horse																				1		107
Total	1	2	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	10	27	5	2	2	2	1	1	5	37	1	1166

Not engaged until the Gate was taken.

Note.—Two Russallas of the Bengal Local Horse remained in charge of the Baggage during the attack.

List of Belochee Sirdars killed in the assault of Kelat on the 13th of November 1839.

NAMES.	REMARKS.
Meer Muerab Khan	Chief of Kelat.
Meer Wullee Mahomed...	The Muengul Sirdar of Wudd
Abdool Kurreem	Shuhwanee Sirdar.
Mahomed Ruzza	Nephew of the Wuzzeer.
	Mahomed Hussen.
Khysur Khan	Asehrie Sirdar.
Dewan Bucha Mull....	Financial Minister.
Noor Mahomed	Shagassee Sirdars.
Taj Mahomed	

PRISONERS.

Mahomed Hussen ..... Wuzzeer.
Moola Ruheemdad ..... Ex Naib of Shawl.
With several others of inferior rank.

(Signed) J. D. D. BEAN.
Political Agent.

By order of the Honorable the Governor in Council,
L. R. REID.—*Actg. Chief Secy. to Govt.*

Printed at the Courier Press, by SORABJEE DORABJEE.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 08 April, 2017

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